

Essentials

Select
Saversclub
AN AFFILIATE OF QUORUM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

WHERE GOOD SENSE MAKES GOOD MONEY.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY FOR MEMBERS OF
SELECT SAVERS CLUB.

Welcome to the Select Savers Club!

The Select Savers Club (SSC) is a not-for-profit club designed to educate and empower its members with financial knowledge. We are committed to helping our members achieve their financial goals with information on spending, saving, borrowing, and managing money and debt wisely. Membership is open to anybody with a desire to learn about financial matters, savings and the wise use of credit.

AT A GLANCE

Annual Meeting

April 14, 2021

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET

Virtual Board Room

RSVP: info@selectsavers.org

USEFUL WEBSITES

- SelectSavers.org
- PracticalMoneySkills.com
- FTC.gov
- quorumfcu.org

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Four Ways to Spring Clean Your Way to Extra Cash

Your home has probably never needed a good spring cleaning more than it does this year. With the coronavirus forcing so many of us to stay in, work remotely and learn virtually, dirt and clutter has inevitably piled up. So, you might need a little extra motivation to get started on this annual ritual. If the thought of sparkling windows, squeaky clean floors and decluttered spaces isn't enough to entice you to pull out the mop and bucket, then think of your spring cleaning as a money-making project that'll pad your wallet in more ways than one. Here are four ways to spring clean your way to some extra savings.

1. Spruce up your curb appeal

Whether or not you're planning to sell your home this spring, it never hurts to enhance its curb appeal; doing so increases the worth of what is likely one of your most valuable assets. Just last year, Realtor® Magazine found that sprucing up the exterior of a home results in an average 7 percent increase in its resale value. For a \$300,000 home, that's a \$21,000 jump. As you put together your cleaning to-do list, include these exterior items for a quick boost to your home's value:

- Clean the windows
- Fix loose gutters and shutters
- Weed and seed the lawn
- Trim shrubbery
- Add fresh flowers and greenery in landscaping beds and front-porch pots
- Lay new mulch or pine straw
- Replace any burned out exterior light bulbs

2. Clean/maintain your appliances for lower monthly bills.

Adding these chores to your spring cleaning can help lower some essential expenses.

- Replace your air filters to make your HVAC system more efficient.
- When dusting ceiling fans, make sure they turn counterclockwise for warmer months so you can notch your AC thermostat up a few degrees and still be comfortable.
- Vacuum your refrigerator's coils to improve its energy efficiency.
- To reduce your food tab, clean out your refrigerator and organize it so that you can readily see what's in it. Do the same with your freezer and pantry. This keeps you from buying unneeded items or wasting food that goes bad before you eat it.

3. Sell unwanted items to generate hard cash.

Spring cleaning also provides a great opportunity to declutter all those spaces in your home that tend to accumulate unused stuff: closets, attics, basements, garages and playrooms.

Go space by space and pull everything out and critically assess each item. If it doesn't mean something to you or you haven't used it in over a year, consider getting rid of it. For items that are still in good shape or barely used, you can sell them in several different ways and pocket the proceeds.

4. Are you actually USING your storage unit? If not, eliminate an unnecessary expense.

Finally, do you have a storage unit filled with furniture, books, clothing and other stuff? If you have no current use or future plan for the items, there's no need to keep paying to store them. Clean out your unit and sell the contents to earn a double cash bonus: the elimination of a monthly bill and extra money in your pocket.